

we are all of us "infants crying in the night," as Tennyson has it; and certainly we should be grateful for the hand that throws the lattice open to let in the light, and for the tender care that binds us to the trellis-work, where we can grow and flourish.

I think it well to give heed to the commandments of our Lord. He, the wisest who ever trod the earth, the noblest that ever tabernacled with the children of men: he, who tried in every way, by precept and example, to illuminate our pilgrimage to the grave, has taught us that it is our privilege to follow him in the holy ordinances and to abide together in the same brotherhood. Who are we that should assume to be wiser than he who is called "the wisdom of God?"

Would it not be better for us simply to obey? Then, living the life of submission to his commandments, there will doubtless come into our experience the conscientiousness of liberty through the Holy Spirit; for, strange as it may seem, yet true it is, in proportion as we yield to the yoke of Christ, the less do we feel the burden of service.

Moreover, in treading the courts of God on earth, we are placing our feet already on the threshold of heaven. The church is indeed the meeting-place of the seen and the unseen. Therein meet the spiritual tides, flowing and reflowing continually between our human hearts and the divine throne above. No one can understand the sacred moments, the hush of joy, the solemn exaltation that comes during special seasons in the sanctuary of the Highest. Then we understand what is meant by Bethel becoming the gate of heaven to the soul.

In my poor judgment, the young man misses much more than he can calculate, more than I can express, who prefers to alienate himself from the sweet intercourse that is possible between himself and God, and Christ, and angels, and the spirits of the just made perfect, that he may maintain an imaginary independence in isolating himself from the manifold helps that the church affords.

In all lives there is a crisis in the formation of character. It comes from many causes, and from some which, on the surface, are apparently trivial. But the result is the same—a sudden revelation to ourselves of our secret purposes, and a recognition of our perhaps long-shadowed but not masterful convictions.—*James Martineau.*

To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die.—*Campbell.*

The Sunday School.

HINTS TO TEACHERS.

A. HAYS.

Upon entering the work of teaching it should be the aim of every teacher to so teach that God's word will not return void, but will bring forth abundant fruit, in the conversion of the Sunday-school scholars.

Every teacher when studying the lesson should have his class before him in his mind and so search for crumbs for each one, that all will get some truth that will just suit their case.

Our great Exemplar, as we find Him teaching, in the lessons of the first half-year, is the one to imitate.

He was ready for all cases as they came up before him. While he was pointed and earnest in his applications of truth, he was tender and wise. So should every teacher seek to be. First, get your class where you will have control of them, where they will be eager to hear what you have to say, then give the lesson in the plainest, most interesting way possible, in all its general teachings, then in the spirit of devoted Christian love, apply to each one the part most suited to their need. Inspire the pupils to search for the meaning of each lesson, and its personal application. From Sunday to Sunday review the previous lessons, and keep as far as possible a connection between them through the entire quarter.

The responsibility resting upon every teacher is beyond our power to estimate. It is therefore most important that every teacher be well inspired with his work, and that his own soul be quickened by the power of the Holy Spirit. He should know first of all, that he has passed from death unto life, and is brought into harmony with the divine will. Then he will be free to receive light and inspiration from God, unto each lesson, and can go gladly in the Spirit to unfold the blessed revealed truth to the pupils of the class. Teachers would be helped and blest if they would in each school cultivate the spirit of unity among themselves in the work of teaching. To bear one another's burdens; to pray for each other's classes, and form acquaintance with each other's pupils. The kindest feeling would have its effect upon the pupils and bring them under sincere conviction for sin. The daily prayer of every teacher should be that God would open to them the Scriptures more and more clearly, and give to them the power of utterance, that they might speak in the demonstration of the spirit and with power.

No teacher should admit of failure in

this line of work. Claim the promise that God will "make you perfect unto every good work." Amen.

Moxham, Pa.

VISITORS.

Many Superintendents are at a loss to know how to treat visitors. They desire to show them all courtesy, and yet do not wish to break the continuity of school session in any way. The worst of all things is to invite the visitors, especially if they are strangers, to "say a few words to the children." We do not believe any Superintendent has a right to turn a whole school aside from the work of the day to listen to a random talk by a visitor. Sometimes it seems best to invite the visitor to speak if he is thoroughly well known; and sometimes it is even desirable; but if the visitor be a thorough Sunday-school worker, he will be very brief and not say anything that would take the attention away from the lesson of the day. All Superintendents whose schools have reached any degree of celebrity whatever, understand how serious a matter this is. They are glad to have the visitors, and want to show them every respect.

We have a few suggestions to make and they are not new with us:

1. Let some proper officer explain the working of the school to the visitor showing him about the building at such a time as will not interfere with the work.
2. Have a Visitor's Album, in which all visitors of that kind are requested to enter their names.
3. Give them sample copies of the printed matter in use.
4. If the visitor be distinguished in any way, or a prominent Sunday-school worker, a very beautiful custom is to invite him to the platform during the closing exercises and at a suitable place introduce him to the school, but do not ask him to talk. This introduction may be made very beautiful. Suppose the Superintendent would say something like this: "Dear Friends, we are favored to-day in having with us a visitor, Mr. —, who is a Sunday-school worker from —." Then let the Superintendent take the visitor by the arm, and have him rise, and let the school, having been previously instructed what to do on such occasions, all rise in a body, out of respect to the visitor, and be immediately seated. Then let the Superintendent go on with his work as though nothing had happened. Visitors will appreciate this notice very much, and will not feel badly if they do not get to talk.